U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT



WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

Disaster Voucher Program (DVP)
Processing Instructions Letter #2
Pre-disaster Public Housing, Project-based, Homeless and Special Needs Housing Families

Dear Executive Director:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the status of DVP assistance for pre-disaster public housing, project-based, homeless and special needs housing families that still remain on DVP.

Reinstatement of Tenant Contribution

In accordance with Notice PIH 2007-17 the waiver of the normally applicable voucher program tenant contribution for DVP participants expired December 31, 2007. Effective January 1, 2008, public housing agencies (PHA) were required to recalculate housing assistance payments (HAP) for all DVP families in accordance with regular voucher program rules.

Although PHAs have recalculated HAP for DVP families, and families have started paying a portion of their gross rent, the Disaster Information System (DIS) does not currently allow PHAs to enter total tenant payment (TTP) information into a family's lease record. As a result, the total HAP amount in DIS no longer reflects the actual HAP amount PHAs are paying on behalf of families. Instead, it reflects the amount the PHA was paying prior to reinstatement of the tenant contribution requirement.

To address this problem, a new release to the DIS is scheduled for March 2008. The new release will add a TTP field to the lease record, and the automated calculation of the "HAP Total" field will also be updated. At the time the upgrade is complete, instructions for creating new lease records with TTP information will be issued. Until that time, PHAs should maintain and create lease records according to the current system instructions.

PHAs will continue to receive monthly DVP disbursements based on the "HAP Total" amounts that appear in the current lease records in the DIS. We recognize that this approach will result in temporary overpayments to PHAs. However, all overpayments will be offset in future disbursements once the TTP amounts are added for each family, and the DIS is able to recalculate the "HAP total" amounts accordingly.

Moves with Continued DVP Assistance

There has been some confusion regarding whether or not DVP families may move out of the jurisdiction in which they are currently residing. Families may move to another PHA's jurisdiction and continue to receive DVP assistance, as long as the PHA in the area where a family wants to move is willing to administer DVP assistance, the family can find a landlord willing to participate in the DVP, and the family can move without violating their current DVP lease.

PHAs should continue to process moves in accordance with the instructions provided in Notice PIH 2006-12 (as amended by Notice PIH 2006-37, which removed the initial lease term requirements of Section 8(o)(7)(A) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 from the DVP). The Department will continue to provide DVP funding directly to the receiving PHA on the basis of the portability information entered into the Disaster Information System.

Extension of DVP End Date

The Department has determined there is sufficient DVP funding to continue assisting families beyond the projected DVP end date of June 30, 2008. Only those families that were under lease as of the DVP admission deadline (September 1, 2007), will qualify for this extension of DVP assistance. Once the DIS is updated to include TTP information, we will be able to provide the new projected end date for DVP based on the amount of remaining DVP funding. We expect to make an announcement regarding the new end date for DVP no later than May 2008.

If you have any questions regarding these instructions, please contact the Housing Voucher Management and Operations Division at (202) 708-0477.

Your prompt attention to this guidance is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

David Vargas Dictally signed by David Vargas C = US, O = David Vargas, C = US, O = David Vargas, C = US, O = Director, Housing Voucher Program

David A. Vargas, MSA, CPA Director Office of Housing Voucher Programs